

Tarrant County Juvenile Services

Continuum of Services

Least Restrictive

FY 2001

Most Restrictive

Choices

Comprehensive Truancy Intervention Program

Supervisory Caution

Victim-Offender Mediation

Deferred Prosecution Probation

Youth Center

Community Service Restitution

Neighborhood Conference Committee (NCC)

Monetary Restitution

Community Based Detention

Electronically Monitored Home Detention

Victim Assistance

Juvenile Drug Court Program

Court-Ordered Probation Supervision

Non-Traditional Probation Supervision

Professional Contract Services/CRCG

Contract Alternative Education

Family Preservation

Tarrant County Advocate Program

Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program- Pathways

Joint Project/Specialized Caseload

Juvenile Offender Caseload

TRIAD

Intensive Supervision Probation

ISP/Electronically Monitored Probation

Project Spotlight

Post-Adjudication Program

Specialized Treatment for Offenders Program (STOP)

Residential Placement

Texas Youth Commission

TYRC SERVICES

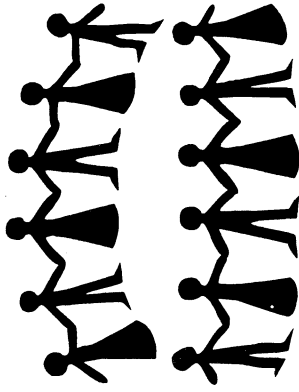
Tarrant Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse provides screening, assessment, referral, and case management.

Mental Health Mental Retardation of Tarrant County provides residential treatment.

Santa Fe Adolescent Services, Inc. provides day treatment.

Family Service, Inc. provides outpatient treatment and family programs.

Tarrant County Challenge, Inc. coordinates services and provides fiscal and facility management.



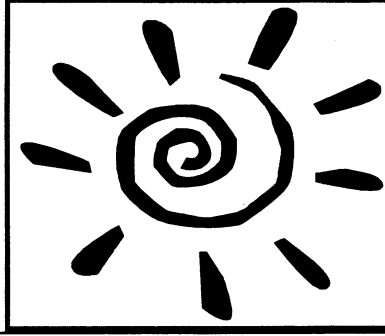
The goal of the Tarrant Youth Recovery Campus is to increase the effectiveness and availability of substance abuse treatment for adolescents in Tarrant County by providing an integrated and coordinated system of treatment options.

Phone: (817) 921-5050

Fax: (817) 921-3651

1527 HEMPHILL
SUITE 622
FORT WORTH, TX
76104

**TARRANT
YOUTH
RECOVERY
CAMPUS**



A project of:

Tarrant County Challenge, Inc.
Family Service, Inc.
**Mental Health Mental Retardation
of Tarrant County**
Santa Fe Adolescent Services, Inc.
**Tarrant Council on Alcoholism and
Drug Abuse**

Phone (817) 921-5050
Fax (817) 921-3651

1527 HEMPHILL, SUITE 622
FORT WORTH, TX 76104

Tarrant County Advocate Program-North

Belinda Gonzalez Hampton, Director
2235 N. Main Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76106
PH: (817) 625-4185 FX: (817) 625-4187

Parent Company: Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.
Thomas L. Jeffers, President
2007 North Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

TYPE OF PROGRAM:

A private, non-profit agency which provides an alternative to incarceration. Founded in 1975, YAP, Inc. now operates programs in multiple states. T-CAP-North which came into existence in 1994, works to link families with community-based services and supports appropriate case plans to their specific circumstances. Such linkages may involve public schools, alternative educational programs, scouting and employment. Tarrant County Program-North is funded by a contract with Tarrant County Juvenile Probation Services.

POPULATION SERVED:

Approximately 40-50 youth, age 10-17, are served for an average of 4-6 months. No refusal admittance policy. Seventy-five to eighty percent of students are involved in gangs. Five percent women. A majority are Hispanics, with Anglos as the second largest group. A small percentage are Black.

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

When a new family/youth enters the program, a service plan is established agreed to by the family, probation departments and Director of T-CAP-North. Family is then assigned a paid advocate from community to coordinate the implementation of the plan and establish necessary linkages between family and community resources. Advocates are asked to have face-to-face contact with their family 3-4 times each week, including an hour session with just the parents or guardians. Advocate gets to know family and youth well and helps tailor an individual support package that might include parent education classes, counseling, job placement, and alternative schooling for both youth and family. In this context, life-skills are taught to both child and family. Advocate is responsible for transporting family or youth to court, job or school if necessary and helping them fill out necessary paperwork to get them enrolled in work or school if they are not

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
OF THE
76106 NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
PROGRAM**

**TARRANT COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES
(817) 838-4600**

**JON GUSTAFSON
INTAKE SUPERVISOR**

**JACINTO RAMOS, JR
NCC COORDINATOR**

**REVISED
JANUARY 2001**

9. Maintaining active NCC case files;
10. Monitoring the juvenile/parents' compliance with the signed NCC contract, which includes regular contact with the juvenile/parents and documentation in case file;

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A conference committee member is a person who is interested in and concerned about youth. Committee members are able to impress youth and parents that the community is concerned with the youth's behavior and its effects on the community. The perspective nominee goes through a background check and some training to orientate and familiarize the nominee with NCC roles and procedures. Committee members need to have a nonjudgmental attitude towards individuals being interviewed. They need to have a sense of commitment to helping youth grow as individuals and to their development as members of their community. Members need to have a willingness to learn from other people's suggestions and comments. Committee members are responsible to the NCC coordinator.

The volunteers are recruited through meetings of various groups including neighborhood associations, PTA's, and school faculty as well as community-wide meetings.

Members are expected to:

1. Attend all assigned conferences and general meetings.
2. Assist the NCC coordinator with the monitoring of contract compliance.
3. Recruit other people to serve on the NCC.
4. Find other agencies or activities that can be added to the resource list.

PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

REFERRAL PROCESS

Cases are screened initially by the Intake Unit of the Tarrant County Juvenile Probation Department to determine whether the juvenile offender is eligible for the NCC:

1. The juvenile must live in the 76106 zip code geographic area.
2. Probable cause is found that the juvenile has committed an offense.
3. The juvenile has never been adjudicated by any court.
4. The offense is a Class A or Class B misdemeanor.

The District Attorney's Office will screen each case referred for legal sufficiency. A panel will screen and evaluate each case to determine whether it is appropriate. The screening committee will consist of:

1. An Intake Officer from Tarrant County Juvenile Services;
2. The Intake supervisor from TCJS;
3. An Assistant District Attorney from the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office;
4. The NCC Coordinator; and
5. If necessary, a Victim Assistance Officer from Tarrant County Juvenile Services.

The screening committee has to vote unanimously for a referral to take place. The NCC Coordinator has final say on whether the NCC program will accept a case.

Reasons cases might be rejected include:

1. Offender has previous arrests.
2. Offender has been a runaway several times.
3. Offender is a suspect in prior offenses.
4. Offender was a victim of physical or sexual abuse.
5. The offense is too complicated or too severe.
6. The NCC has a full caseload.

Certain misdemeanor cases will also not be considered:

1. A weapon was used or possessed in the offense.
2. Seriously bodily injury occurred.

TYPES OF OFFENSES

CLASS A

Criminal Mischief (Prop. Damage \$500-\$1500)	Theft \$500-less than \$1500
Criminal Trespass-Habitation	Resisting Arrest
Burglary of Coin-Operated Machine	

CLASS B

Attempted Burg. Of Coin Machine	Theft \$50-less than \$500
Criminal Mischief (Prop. Damage \$20-\$500)	Graffiti \$0-\$500
Criminal Trespass	Evading Arrest
Harrassment-Verbal	

POSSESSION OF JUVENILE FILE

The Neighborhood Conference Committee may not retain any juvenile file which is not active. Only the NCC coordinator will possess the file relating to a case.

PRE-CONFERENCE PROCESS

Upon receipt of each referral, the NCC coordinator opens a file on each juvenile. Initially the file contains a copy of the police report for the offense that needs to be resolved. The coordinator documents the overall case record when the family was contacted, when the notice to parents was sent, and when the reply was received. The family is sent all the appropriate forms to sign. An authorization to release information and confidentiality form would need to be signed before any conference took place. If the family does not respond to repeated attempts at communication or does not appear at the scheduled time, the case is returned to the Juvenile Department.

CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

Conferences are to be scheduled up to four evenings per week (Monday to Thursday). It may last from one to three hours. It is recommended that one case be handled per night (two is the maximum).

Conference committee members should arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled conference in order to review the file. If a committee member knows the youth involved in the conference, he/she may choose to find a substitute to hear the case.

The conference is held in private, with only the youth, parents, coordinator, and committee members present. Should either parent or child arrive without the other, the committee may not hold the conference. The case will then be rescheduled.

When the parent and child have arrived for the meeting, they are invited before the committee for an explanation of the NCC and the format of the conference. If the family did not sign and bring the confidentiality form (CYD), they can sign it before the conference begins. It is explained to the child and the parent that participation is voluntary and all information is confidential. Also, that the committee is the community's means of expressing its concern and desire to be assistance. The advantages of the Neighborhood Conference Committee over the formal Juvenile Justice System are explained.

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM:

1. There is the formality of trial with attorneys, judges, delays and court costs.
2. Hearings are held during the regular working hours of the Juvenile Court.
3. If the court finds that a child has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision, the Court may place the child on probation up until their 18th birthday, remove a child from the home, and make the family pay probation fees.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE COMMITTEE PROCESS:

1. The conference is confidential and anything that is said can not be used against the child, even if the case eventually goes to court.
2. Meetings are held in the community where the youth lives and at a time convenient for the family.
3. The agreement with the NCC lasts no longer than six months.

The coordinator explains to the youth his/her rights under Section 58.003 of the Texas Penal Code to seal their records and provides the family with a written explanation as well as a copy of the law.

After initially explaining to the client and parent(s) the procedure the conference will take, the committee excuses the parent(s) from the room so they may interview the youth alone. The committee will then excuse the juvenile and ask the parent(s) to come in alone. Upon completion of the parent(s) interview the committee will ask them to leave the room. At that time, the committee discusses the conference and makes a recommendation to be presented to the child and parent(s). The team will then formulate a contract attempting to fit the terms to the offense and considering the root causes of the behavior. The committee will have great flexibility in deciding what goes on the contract. Alternatives include, but are not limited to any one or combination of the following:

1. Assigning community service work;
 2. Referring youth and/or parent(s) to an agency for counseling;
 3. Victim-offender mediation;
 4. Writing an essay related to the offense;
 5. Writing an apology letter;
 6. Curfew times;
 7. Assigning tutoring and monitoring school grades/attendance;
 8. Parenting classes/workshops;
 9. Requiring parents to attend school activities, becoming more involved;
 10. Any other assignment which is reasonably related to the offense and/or the root cause.
- The committee is encouraged to be imaginative and as innovative as possible.

The contract may last up to six months from the original contract date. The agreement period may be as short as one day. Each contract must include a termination date and it must specify by what date each part of the agreement is to be accomplished.

Once the committee reaches its decision, it explains to both the youth and parent(s) the requirements in the contract. If both the youth and the parent(s) agree the contract is signed by the youth, parent(s), and the participating committee members. Copies of the contract are kept by the family and the coordinator.

Youth and parent(s) are generally contacted at least once every three weeks by the coordinator. The original contract can only be modified by the original committee and/or the NCC coordinator. Generally, one of the members of the interview team will assist the coordinator with following up on the contract in order to assure that the terms are met.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The committee acts only on referrals provided by the NCC coordinator. Conferences are to be held in private; usually only committee members, NCC staff, parents and youth are present. **Any information which might identify the youth or his/her family may not be made public.** Necessary information is provided to the Tarrant County Juvenile Probation Department or other agencies that are working on a case involving the juvenile. Information may be provided to other social service agencies with permission from the family. NCC members pledge to hold all proceedings in confidence. Failure to do so could lead to removal from the Neighborhood Conference Committee.

Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program

Advisory Board Report November 21, 2000

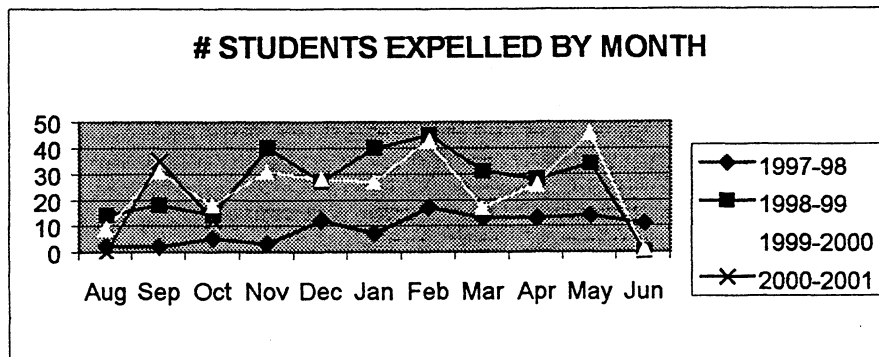
The JJAEP served 99 students during the 1997-98 school year, 328 students during the 1998-99 school year, and 442 students for the 1999-2000 school year. The following statistics represent demographic information on the population served (N = new referrals) at the JJAEP currently and during the last three school years:

	1997/1998 N=99	1998/1999 N=291	1999/2000 N=281	2000/2001 N=35 (10/31)
Expulsion Offense				
Mandatory	42 (42%)	122 (42%)	133 (47%)	22 (47%)
Discretionary	57 (58%)	169 (58%)	148 (53%)	25 (53%)
School District				
Arlington	6 (6%)	20 (7%)	38 (14%)	7 (15%)
Azle	12 (12%)	23 (8%)	13 (5%)	5 (11%)
Birdville	3 (3%)	6 (2%)	12 (4%)	2 (4%)
Carroll	2 (2%)	3 (1%)	1 (<1%)	0
Castleberry	8 (8%)	6 (2%)	9 (3%)	7 (15%)
Crowley	1 (1%)	9 (3%)	9 (3%)	2 (4%)
Eagle Mountain-Saginaw	6 (6%)	9 (3%)	11 (4%)	0
Fort Worth	8 (8%)	107 (37%)	106 (38%)	8 (17%)
Grapevine-Colleyville	5 (5%)	17 (6%)	17 (6%)	3 (6%)
Hurst Euless Bedford	14 (14%)	23 (8%)	17 (6%)	3 (6%)
Keller	19 (20%)	38 (13%)	31 (11%)	5 (11%)
Kennedale	0	3 (1%)	1 (<1%)	0
Lake Worth	4 (4%)	6 (2%)	1 (<1%)	0
Mansfield	2 (2%)	6 (2%)	6 (2%)	1 (2%)
White Settlement	9 (9%)	15 (5%)	9 (3%)	4 (9%)
Juvenile Probation Status				
Official Probation	23 (23%)	96 (33%)	76 (27%)	5 (11%)
Drug Court	0	0	8 (3%)	0
Deferred Prosecution	13 (13%)	41 (14%)	17 (6%)	3 (6%)
Classified Special Education	25 (25%)	67 (23%)	59 (21%)	14 (30%)
Gender				
Male	79 (80%)	250 (86%)	238 (85%)	37 (79%)
Female	20 (20%)	41 (14%)	43 (15%)	10 (21%)
Ethnicity				
African American	10 (10%)	67 (23%)	73 (26%)	7 (15%)
American Indian	0	3 (1%)	0	0
Asian	0	0	3 (1%)	1 (2%)
Caucasian	67 (68%)	154 (53%)	133 (47%)	26 (55%)
Hispanic	22 (22%)	67 (23%)	69 (25%)	13 (28%)
Other	0	0	3 (1%)	0
Grade Level				
4 th	0	3 (1%)	1 (<1%)	0
5 th	1 (1%)	3 (1%)	4 (1%)	3 (6%)
6 th	4 (4%)	17 (6%)	12 (4%)	2 (4%)
7 th	13 (13%)	52 (18%)	47 (17%)	7 (15%)
8 th	25 (25%)	73 (25%)	66 (23%)	12 (26%)
9 th	33 (33%)	90 (31%)	80 (28%)	10 (21%)
10 th	11 (11%)	29 (10%)	42 (15%)	7 (15%)
11 th	8 (8%)	15 (5%)	20 (7%)	4 (9%)
12 th	4 (4%)	9 (3%)	9 (4%)	2 (4%)

Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program

Advisory Board Report November 21, 2000

The graph below shows the number of students by month referred to Tarrant County Juvenile Services for enrollment in the JJAEP during the past three school years and this school year. There were 99 total referrals in 1997-98, 291 total referrals in 1998-99, 281 total referrals in 1999-2000, and 47 referrals to-date (10/31/00) for 2000-01.

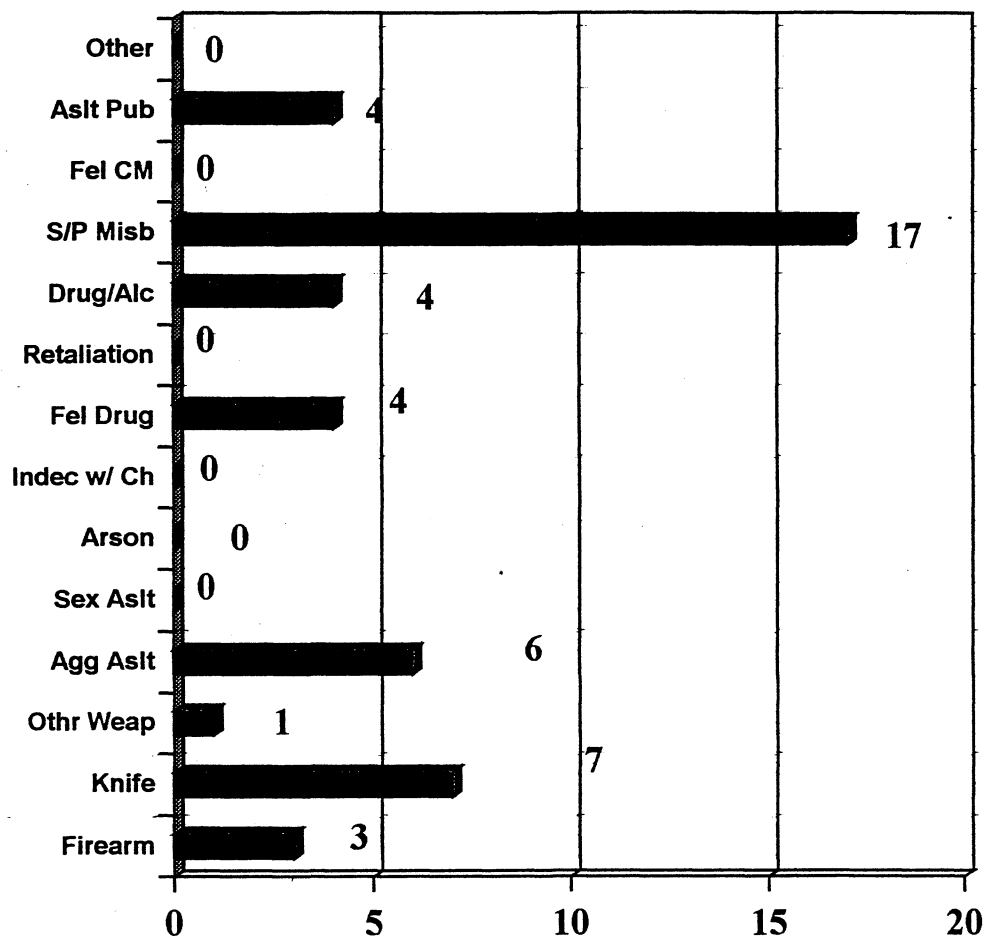


The chart below shows the monthly average daily attendance, monthly actual number of attendance days, and the monthly percentage rate of attendance at the JJAEP for the past two school years and for the 2000-2001 school year to-date (10/31/00).

98/99			99/00			00/01			
Mo	Avg Daily Att	# Act Att Days	Mo % Att	Avg Daily Att	# Act Att Days	Mo % Att	Avg Daily Att	# Act Att Days	Mo % Att
Aug	20	204	72%	104	1,766	72%	No sch	No sch	No sch
Sep	44	928	84%	98	2,060	72%	84	1,602	77%
Oct	52	1134	83%	98	2,062	72%	88	1,928	78%
Nov	60	1131	83%	94	1,788	72%			
Dec	77	1455	78%	101	1,711	77%			
Jan	82	1635	80%	102	2,137	79%			
Feb	102	2041	78%	118	2,482	86%			
Mar	112	2583	74%	124	2,236	85%			
Apr	110	2425	72%	119	2,385	88%			
May	139	1809	75%	107	1,810	84%			
Jun	110	1428	68%	107	1,819	89%			
Jul	103	2153	68%	92	1,199	81%			

Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program Advisory Board Report November 21, 2000

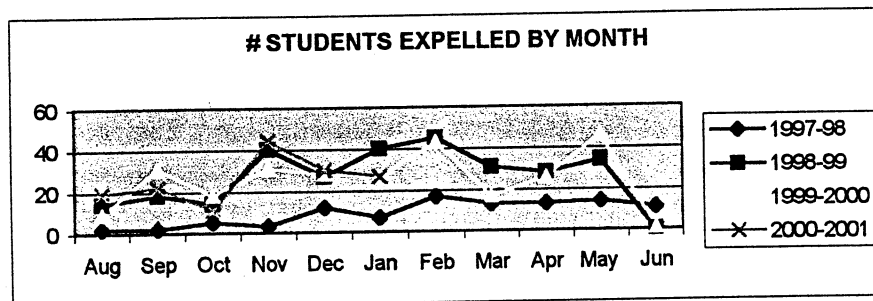
The graph below indicates the 2000-2001 statistics regarding Cause for Expulsion to the JJAEP.



Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program

Advisory Board Report February 20, 2001

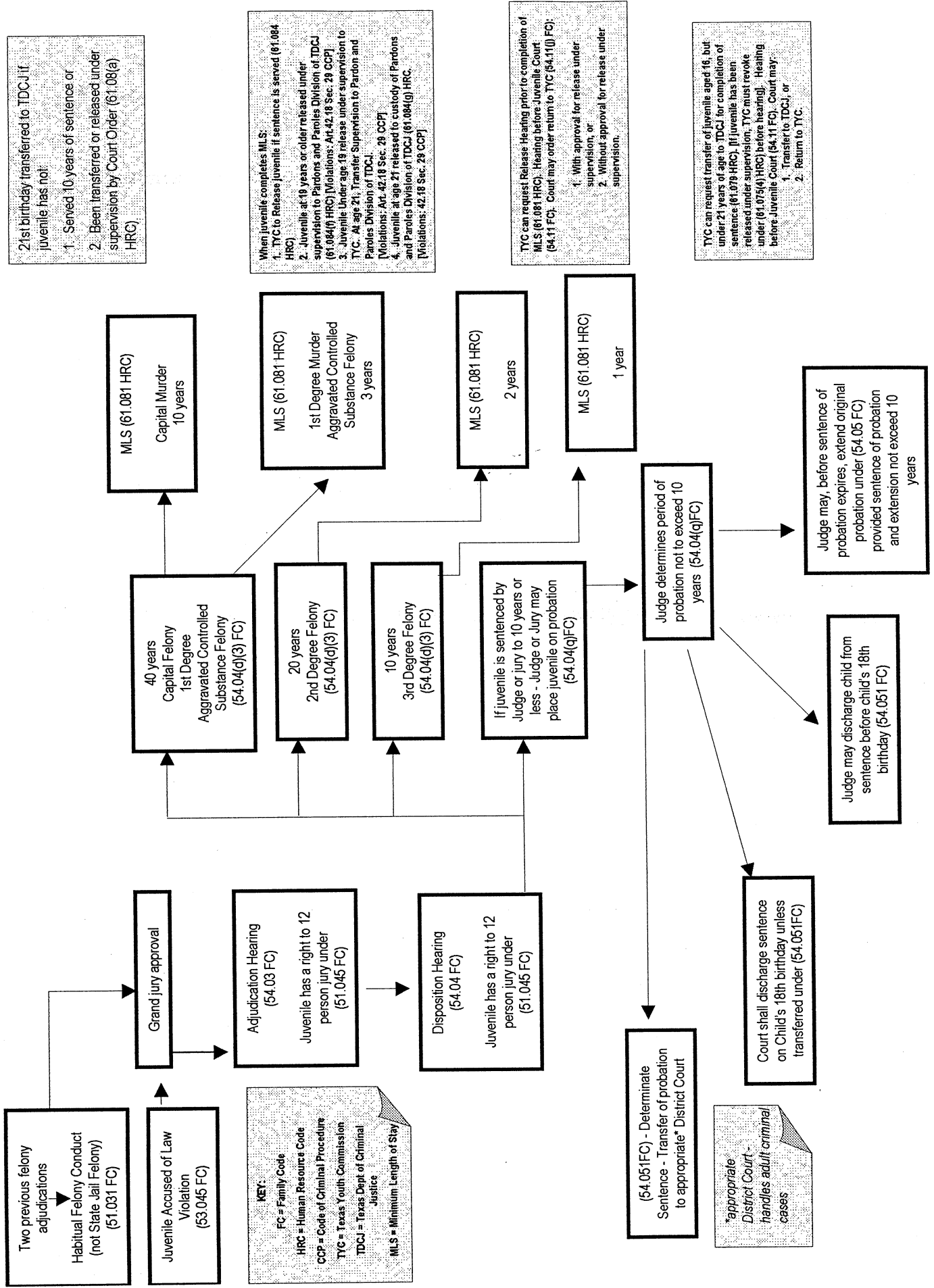
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The chart below shows the monthly average daily attendance, monthly actual number of attendance days, and the monthly percentage rate of attendance at the JJAEP for the past two school years and for the 2000-2001 school year to-date (01/31/01).

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Oct	52	1134	83%	98	2,062	72%	88	1,928	78%
Nov	60	1131	83%	94	1,788	72%	85	1,690	80%
Dec	77	1455	78%	101	1,711	77%	94	1,416	78%
Jan	82	1635	80%	102	2,137	79%	96	2,011	80%
Feb	102	2041	78%	118	2,482	86%			
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Jul	103	2153	68%	92	1,199	81%			

OFFENSE DATE: On or after September 1, 1999



TARRANT COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

By statute, Tarrant County Juvenile Services is the receiving agency for most law violations alleged to have been committed by juveniles within Tarrant County. "Juvenile" means a child aged ten to 16; "law violation" means a Class A or B misdemeanor or a felony grade offense. The department's mission is to address delinquency prevention and to provide education and supervision for youth of Tarrant County, while furthering an environment safe from juvenile crime for citizens of the community. Services are provided at the direction of the Tarrant County Juvenile Board and the Juvenile Court. Three Associate Judges assist the presiding judge of the 323rd District Court.

Tarrant County Juvenile Services adopted Progressive Sanctions Guidelines enacted by the Texas legislature, effective January 1, 1996. The guidelines specify a series of consequences, interventions, and outcomes for juvenile offenders that are designed to balance public protection, offender accountability, and rehabilitation. With the combined support of state and local funding, the department has developed a range of community- and home-based programs to form a comprehensive response for at-risk youth. A copy of the continuum is shown on page 32. Programs in the continuum range from prevention and early intervention to secure incarceration, and are designed to assist youth at each sanction level to fulfill obligations to the community and to the court, enabling the youth to make the changes necessary not to commit another law violation. The system is also designed to identify problems and provide appropriate interventions at the earliest point to help youth solve problems in the communities in which they live. Within this context, the Juvenile Court strives to identify the least restrictive environment for the care and rehabilitation of youth within its jurisdiction.

The Progressive Sanctions chart on page 34 illustrates the recommended sanctions, from the least restrictive to the most restrictive, contained in the guidelines. A description of each program in the continuum of services is contained in this document.

Choices

Choices is a crime-prevention program for children and youth that utilizes varied educational approaches to heighten awareness of crime and drug usage. The goal is to aid youth to use that information in making better decisions. Classroom presentations (overheads, role-plays, videos, etc.) are made by prevention officers in the Community Restitution Unit at the invitation of Tarrant County school districts. During 1999, approximately 3,988 children in elementary and middle schools were exposed to the Choices curriculum.

Comprehensive Truancy Intervention Program

In order to reduce the number of students missing school in the Fort Worth Independent School District, a collaborative program was implemented bringing parents of truant students and a number of social service and legal agencies together to address the problem as early as possible. The Truancy Intervention Program is a collaborative effort between the Fort Worth ISD, the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, the Fort Worth Police Department and local law enforcement agencies, Tarrant County Constable Offices, Tarrant County Juvenile Services, mental health and social service providers, and community-based organizations.

Supervisory Caution

Supervisory Caution is the lowest level of intervention in the Progressive Sanctions model. Supervisory Caution requires that a child be released to parents following disposition. The majority of youth engaged at this level will have one-time contact with the department. Offenses disposed at this level typically include volatile chemical offenses, non-delinquent Family Code violations (e.g., Runaways, Violations of Probation, and School Expulsions for serious and persistent misbehavior), and, on occasion, Class B Thefts (\$50-500), Criminal Mischief (\$20-500), and Criminal Trespass cases. Suggested sanctions under this level include counseling, referrals to community resources, or participation in a first offender program. Approximately 44.45% of 1999 referrals were disposed utilizing Supervisory Caution.

Victim Offender Mediation

Victim-Offender Mediation is an opportunity for victims and offenders to have a face to face encounter led by a trained mediator. Mediation provides an opportunity for a victim and a juvenile offender to resolve conflicts, negotiate reconciliation, and attain offender accountability. Both the victim(s) and the offender(s) must be willing to participate in mediation. The mediator sets out rules to ensure that the process is safe and fair to all involved. Often mediation is ordered by the court in order to expedite resolution in a proceeding. Once achieved, mediation outcomes are reported to Juvenile Services for their review and evaluation and may be incorporated into the juvenile's case history. Examples of mediated cases include contested restitution, cases in which an alternative to financial restitution is sought, disputed participation in the alleged law violation, and family conflicts amenable to mediated solutions.

Deferred Prosecution Probation (DPP)

DPP represents the second level of intervention in the Progressive Sanctions model. In DPP, a youth referred for prosecutable charges may consent to a period of voluntary supervision in lieu of court adjudication. The youth must agree to abide by certain behavioral conditions during the supervision period. DPP is typically considered when a youth has been charged with a Class A or B misdemeanor or for a singular, first time felony property offense. The department provides assessment, information, and referral services to the youth and family with a goal of minimizing the likelihood of future contact with police or juvenile authorities. Youth on DPP may also perform community service, pay monetary restitution, or be referred to other community resources available to the Department. At any time during the period of supervision, the youth or parent may terminate the agreement in order to proceed with formal prosecution before the Court. During 1999, 1294 juveniles were supervised on DPP, with a success rate of 85.71%. Successful completion is defined as completing the program without adjudication to probation or commitment to the Texas Youth Commission.

Judge Joe H. Eidson, Jr. Youth Center

The Eidson Youth Center is licensed by the state of Texas as a 24-hour basic childcare facility. The center provides residential services to approximately 16 Tarrant County pre-delinquent youth between the ages of 12-17. Placement into the program is voluntary, with an average length of stay between six to nine months. Referrals to the center may

originate with the Department or from the community at large. Adjudication for a law violation disqualifies a youth from eligibility to live at the center. Typically, the program serves youth presenting with adjustment and socialization issues. The goal is for the youth to acquire needed social and behavioral management skills and to be able to return to a healthier home environment at the end of placement. The program stresses family involvement, and residents are scheduled for regular home visits throughout their placement. Parents attend counseling sessions conducted at the center by a licensed family therapist on a weekly basis. The Fort Worth Independent School District provides two certified classroom teachers for the on-campus school program. All residents attend school in this program, as the program provides both regular and special educational services.

Community Service Restitution (CSR)

CSR is a program in which juveniles perform a period of community service in a non-profit community agency, educational or governmental facility, voluntarily or under court order. Participants typically perform between 30 to 100 hours of community service in settings such as Boys and Girls Clubs, recreation centers, YMCA/YWCA's, food banks, and area churches. Special weekend work projects include graffiti abatement and municipal cleanup. CSR constitutes a strategy to help juveniles assume responsibility for their actions and be responsive to community and victim concerns. It also provides a positive experience in community involvement and socialization. Youth eligible for participation must be 14 years of age or older and have no referrals for sexual, weapons, or aggravated personal injury offenses.

During 1999, a total of 991 juveniles participated in some form of community service at one of 65 different agencies. Collectively, credit was given for a total of 24,258 hours of community service. A total of 695 youth performed community service, 74% of which successfully completed all requirements of the program.

Neighborhood Conference Committee – NCC

The NCC program consists of local citizen groups acting under the authority of the Juvenile Court as an extension of the department. NCC provides services to first-time misdemeanor offenders in zip code 76106, a state-targeted area of high crime referrals. NCC members are trained volunteers who live or work within the neighborhood. The goal is to help families resolve difficulties with an adolescent family member and to hold juveniles accountable for their behavior without a formal court hearing. NCC citizen members evaluate a youth's situation in a non-judgmental way and recommend appropriate community-based actions, such as mentoring, employment, community service, referral to a neighborhood church or community center for assistance, maintaining ongoing contact, advocacy, expression of apology to a victim, networking to available resources within the community, etc. NCC provides an avenue for expressing the community's concern to a youth and engendering a juvenile's sense of responsibility. NCCs promote citizen participation and identification of needed resources for residents.

Monetary Restitution

Financial restitution requires that a written agreement be activated which details a plan for restoring monetary loss to the victim of a youth's offense. This may occur as a voluntary component in diverted cases, or it may be specified by court order as a condition of probation. Restoring financial loss to a victim or to the community is

regarded as a therapeutic event in a program of rehabilitation. It also provides a concrete, non-litigious avenue for victims to recover a portion of their loss. In 1999, Tarrant County Juvenile Services received and distributed \$63,310.76 in restitution, representing payments from 453 youth.

Community-Based Detention (CBD)

CBD is a program of detention services provided to selected juvenile offenders in their own homes. Target youth are those who can be returned to the physical custody of their parent(s) while awaiting case disposition. CBD services are provided through the Tarrant County Advocate Program (TCAP) and conform to the general function of detention and established standards for in-home detention services. TCAP uses trained advocates to provide intensive face-to-face supervision of a youth's activities, knowledge of current whereabouts, monitoring of attendance at school or work, and return to home when expected. Advocates may escort youth and parents to court hearings. Advocates assist youth in keeping appointments for legal and diagnostic services and may also provide nightly curfew checks. Advocates provide assistance and support to parents during the detention period in a variety of individual and family activities which identify strengths and needs in educational, vocational, and social functioning. This information may be presented to the court in cases where CBD has been engaged for 14 days or longer. Disposition of CBD cases will be docketed as expeditiously as cases in the detention center.

Electronically Monitored Home Detention (HD/EM)

HD/EM involves detaining juvenile offenders in their own homes with electronic monitoring surveillance while they await disposition of their case. These cases are expedited on the court docket similarly to CBD. In optimal circumstances, a juvenile will be placed on HD/EM for only seven to ten days prior to court. An act of non-compliance, such as leaving home without permission or tampering with the ankle monitor, results in immediate telephonic notification to the Department. A decision to order immediate custody of the juvenile may be made. The goals of HD/EM are to ensure compliance with conditions of release from detention, to reduce the likelihood of re-offending, to reduce the population of detainees, to reduce co-mingling of violent and non-violent offenders, and to provide additional safeguards for the protection of the public.

In 1999, 245 juveniles were served in the EM/HD program; of 232 juveniles completing the program, 200 completed the program successfully, with a success rate of 86%. Successful completion is defined as completing the program without referral for a new offense, a violation of program schedule, or unauthorized absences.

Victim Assistance Unit (VAU)

To implement statutory rights accorded to victims of juvenile crime, a Victim's Assistance Unit was established within the department to ensure that victims are afforded those rights, which include notice at the earliest possible point regarding safety concerns, compensation for loss, victim impact, juvenile justice proceedings, community resources, and support services. The VAU officer notifies each victim telephonically and/or in writing within 24 hours of case referral to the department. If a youth is brought to detention by law enforcement, VAU contacts the victim within 24 hours to assess safety or loss concerns the victim may have that are relevant to the judicial decision-making in

the juvenile's case. VAW officers attend detention and other hearings to express victim concerns, and they assist in the establishment and recovery of restitution, resource referral, advocacy activities, information dissemination, and provision of assistance and support.

Juvenile Drug Court

Based on the national model for similar programs, Juvenile Drug Court targets juvenile offenders referred for substance abuse offenses. The program offers eligible youth a voluntary opportunity to receive substance abuse treatment as an alternative to being placed on formal probation for the law violation. Assessment information about the youth's substance abuse and treatment needs is provided to the judge, who defers disposition of the case contingent upon the youth's successful completion of treatment. A range of treatment resources is available to treat both the youth and family, including: assessment, education, treatment planning, counseling, day treatment, case management, supervision, and residential services. The department provides ongoing supervision, drug testing, ancillary support, and monitoring of the youth's progress. At regular intervals, the youth receives official recognition for achieving treatment milestones. At the successful conclusion of treatment, pending charges are dismissed by the court.

Court-Ordered Probation Supervision

Juveniles with lengthy or serious referral histories may be placed on court-ordered probation supervision for a period not to exceed their 18th birthday. During supervision, a variety of community-based resources may be utilized to aid compliance with court-ordered terms and conditions of probation. The primary tool for service delivery is an individual casework plan based on goals and objectives that reflect specific behavioral outcomes. Contact between the juvenile and probation officer usually takes place in the juvenile's home but school or work visits may also occur as necessary. Supervision is varied by frequency (from once weekly to once monthly) based on assessment of the juvenile's specific needs, involvement with community resources, and level of cooperation. Supervision levels are reassessed and adjusted during monthly case audits.

During 1999, the department supervised 2474 clients on court-ordered probation, with a success rate of 87.18%. Successful completion is defined as completing the program without incarceration or other action due to non-compliance. The mandated performance target is 85%.

Non-Traditional Probation Supervision (NTP)

NTP offers supervision to a juvenile nearing the end of a probation term who has exhibited a positive attitude, has achieved targeted goals during probation, has maintained contact with his probation officer, has received support and supervision by family members, and is considered not to be at high risk for re-offending. NTP offers varying levels of supervision ranging from twice monthly telephone contact to a mailed probation progress report. If a juvenile on NTP supervision is referred for a new offense or begins to experience problems in school or at home, supervision is intensified. During 1999, 62 juveniles were served on NTP, with a success rate of 81%. Successful

completion is defined as completing the program without being transferred to more intensive supervision as a result of a new offense.

Professional Contract Services

The department facilitates a variety of professional services identified on an individual casework basis for clients and their families or in compliance with a court order. Examples include family counseling, anger control, mental health or substance abuse needs, extended day treatment or partial day programming, specialized transportation needs, and psychological evaluations to aid the court at disposition.

Contract Alternative Education

Many offenders under compulsory supervision by the Juvenile Court have been unsuccessful academically and have been expelled as a result of their disruptive behaviors, truancy, or cumulative failure to progress academically. The department contracts with community service providers to provide accredited secondary educational services for its clients to address academic as well as behavioral barriers to successful functioning in their home schools. Whether they participate voluntarily or by court-order, the goal is for youths to encounter a successful educational experience leading to grade level achievement, reintegration into the home school, high school graduation or General Equivalency Diploma, or demonstrated mastery of basic academic skills. Collective program statistics indicate that, in 1999, 411 students participated in alternative education programs. Of 237 completions, 91% (216 students) successfully attained their prescribed educational goals, including GED, increasing grade levels, and re-entry to school of choice.

Family Preservation

Family Preservation provides intensive in-home and 24-hour crisis intervention services to adjudicated youths and their families experiencing problems that are seen as contributing to a youth's unlawful behavior. Families are seen in their homes at least once or twice weekly, with 24-hour accessibility to a therapist for emergencies. The program utilizes counseling, skills-based treatment (parenting, social skills, anger management, conflict resolution, problem solving, and daily living skills), and resource coordination as intervention strategies based on a plan developed in concert with each family. Services last four to six months and are provided via contract with a private provider. During 1999, 241 families received project services. Of 179 families completing the program, 92% (165 youths) were successfully diverted from the Texas Youth Commission under the supervision of Family Preservation.

Tarrant County Advocate Program (TCAP)

TCAP is a home-based program which utilizes paid, trained adults (advocates) living in the community to develop relationships with the department's most at-risk youths and families. Advocates work intensively with youth and their families to assist in the resolution of needs identified by them, including practical and material as well as interpersonal needs. Advocates spend between seven and a half-hours and 30 hours per week in contact with youths and families in a variety of activities designed to develop strengths, seek solutions, and increase positive encounters and support networks within the community. By developing their own support systems within the community, TCAP

families develop linkages that endure beyond their participation in the program. Length of participation is approximately six months. The program is provided through a contract with Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., Harrisburg, PA. During 1999, TCAP served 429 youths and their families, with 272 families completing project services. Of those, 86% were successfully maintained in the community.

Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP)

In 1996, the Texas Legislature mandated that a juvenile board in a county with a general population of over 125,000 operate a JJAEP, to provide services to youth expelled from public school for serious school-related law violations for which the youth is subsequently placed on probation.

The Tarrant County Juvenile Board voted in July 2000 to authorize the department to operate the Tarrant County JJAEP. The JJAEP provides a year-round program offering a combination of academic behavioral, therapeutic and support services to assist youth who are expelled from public school, provided where possible in an individualized format, aiding students to proceed at their own pace. The program also offers training and support to families in the areas of communication skills, problem solving, conflict resolution, daily living skills, and other issues in aid of helping a youth to be more successful in his educational activities. The department further supports the program by providing four probation officers at the JJAEP site assigned solely to work with client/families at the JJAEP.

Joint Project

Joint Project is a collaboration with Child Protective Services and MHMR for each of those agencies to provide an on-site, full-time case manager at the department. The goal is to improve service delivery for client families of the department who have prior histories at either of those agencies. Through information sharing, joint staffing, and facilitating resource access, the objectives of the program are to decrease recidivism among juvenile offenders, provide interventions which strengthen family functioning, reduce risk factors for abuse and neglect, and link families with community resources. Assessments are conducted jointly to identify needs, develop service plans and provide direct services to youth under supervision by the department. During 1999, 66 client families were served in the program, with 77% completing successfully.

Juvenile Offender Caseload

The specialized Juvenile Offender Unit provides probation supervision and oversight of court-ordered treatment for juveniles adjudicated for registrable sex offenses. In this program, juveniles who are adjudicated for their participation in an aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, indecency with a child or criminal attempt sexual assault are required to undergo offense-specific assessment identifying treatment issues and risk status. Based on that assessment, a juvenile may be allowed to return home and attend treatment designed for offenders and their family members to work on behaviors and issues to prevent re-offending. Attendance at treatment sessions is closely monitored. The department may be ordered to supervise the case for up to a two-year period in accordance with a specific set of conditions for supervision. Through this individualized combination of treatment, supervision, and support, youths are assisted in gaining

control over sexually abusive behavior and developing pro-social behaviors. During 1999, 125 juveniles were served in the program. Of those completing the program, 88% did so successfully. Of these youth, only seven committed a subsequent offense serious enough to warrant removal from the community. None of these offenses involved sexual offending.

TRIAD

TRIAD refers to a collaboration among juvenile, child welfare, and mental health agencies for the provision of services to "multi-problem" youths under the mutual jurisdiction of these agencies. The purpose is to provide services to youths who are before the Juvenile Court and who are also mentally retarded, mentally ill, abused, or neglected. Services may be residential or nonresidential, including day treatment, counseling, medical, dental, clothing, transportation, and vocational or educational services. Target youths often do not receive needed services because they tend not to meet traditional agency eligibility criteria. They tend to have multiple or serial agency involvement, dual diagnosis, or complex, specialized needs. TRIAD funding enables these agencies to access and expedite specialized services. While the department serves as the fiscal agent, a standing committee composed of the three participant agencies screens referrals. In 1999, 15 children received services in the TRIAD project. Resources are identified and designated according to specific individual case need, thus avoiding resource stacking.

Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP)

ISP is a program of probation supervision specifically developed for adjudicated offenders at highest risk for future commitment to the Texas Youth Commission (TYC). A program involving high-frequency face-to-face supervision, ISP utilizes an array of departmental and community resources, including electronic monitoring, daily telephone curfew reporting, community service restitution, family support services, substance abuse diagnosis/counseling, and academic or vocation programs, to assist probationers to remain law-abiding. Juveniles enter ISP for an approximate period of 120 days, initially receiving daily personal supervision, which decreases over time as a youth progresses. Juveniles placed into the program typically have failed to achieve law-abiding behavior during traditional probation supervision. Maximum caseloads are usually 15 youths at one time.

The mandated performance target for successful completions of ISP is 65%. Successful completion is defined as completing the ISP term of supervision without being placed in a long-term residential program, without being transferred to the adult system, and without being committed to TYC. In 1999, a total of 423 juveniles were served. Of the 291 juveniles completing the program, 242 completed the program successfully, resulting in a success rate of 83%.

Intensive Supervision Probation/Electronic Monitoring (ISP/EM)

Court-ordered electronic monitoring is utilized with probationers who are experiencing compliance difficulties with conditions of probation. The length of time a youth undergoes electronic surveillance depends on progress in achieving compliance with the terms of probation. Behaviors which typically precipitate court-ordered monitoring are

failure to observe reasonable curfews, failure to reside at home consistently, confirmed participation in gang activities, and other behaviors which elevate a youth's at-risk status for re-offending. Typically, 45-50 juveniles on caseload will be under electronic surveillance at any one time. The average length of monitoring is 39 days. By prior agreement, an act of noncompliance with agreed upon conditions results in next day notification to the probation officer regarding the violation or act of noncompliance.

In 1999, 449 juveniles were served on ISP/EM; of 420 completing the program, 315 completed the program successfully, resulting in a success rate of 75%. Successful completion is defined as completing the program period without referral for a new offense, removing the EM device, or absconding.

Project Spotlight

In the fall of 1999, the Governor's Criminal Justice Division made funds available to Tarrant County Juvenile Services and six other Texas counties for operation of Project Spotlight. Modeled on Boston's Nightlight Program, Project Spotlight provides teams of three officers (adult probation, juvenile probation and law enforcement) to make unannounced field visits to homes of juvenile and adult probationers living in high crime areas, to ensure compliance with terms of their probation supervision. Three zip code areas in Tarrant County (76106, 76119, and 76010) are identified for Project Spotlight services. Tarrant County and the cities of Arlington and Fort Worth established a partnership for implementation of the project. Other elements emphasized by the program are new resources to combat crime in targeted communities, information sharing and interagency collaboration, and building partnerships in the community.

Post-Adjudication Program

The Post-Adjudication Program is a short-term residential intervention for youth on intensive probation supervision who are experiencing serious difficulties complying with the terms of their probation (e.g., non-attendance at school, curfew violations, affiliation with gang members, drug usage). The goal with this intervention is to gain a youth's voluntary compliance with conditions of supervision in the community, so that a long-term period of incarceration at TYC can be avoided. This is accomplished through a short-term (less than 30 days) intensive exposure to structure (academics, physical conditioning) and skill development (life skills, communication, interpersonal communications) within a confined setting.

Specialized Treatment for Offenders Program - (S.T.O.P.)

The Specialized Treatment of Offenders Program (S.T.O.P.) provides a secure residential environment for adjudicated juveniles who commit sexual offenses who are court-ordered to participate in residential treatment prior to returning to their homes. The program targets male youth between the ages of 13 and 16 and whose assessed treatment needs and re-offense risk contraindicate direct release to the community without a period of confined treatment. The program goals include decreasing sexually abusive behavior among adjudicated juvenile sex offenders; providing protection for victims and the community from sexual victimization; preventing other aggressive or abusive behavior by youth; and assisting youth in building more positive and functional relationships. This program recently opened in November of 2000.

Residential Placement

Placement of a youth in a residential setting is utilized when other efforts to achieve law-abiding behavior have failed. Placement decisions are based on evidence of a significant history of delinquency referrals, an essential need for rehabilitative services not available within the community, or on the belief that the youth is in imminent danger of commitment to the Texas Youth Commission. The placement process is an attempt to match the youth's needs with the facility most capable of addressing those needs as shown through legal, social, psychological, educational, and medical information. The duration of placement may coincide with the period of probation supervision, but weight is given to the facility's recommendation concerning the youth's progress and continuing need for treatment. The department contracts with a variety of residential providers for a range of residential services. The cost of such services and the level of care indicated for an individual youth are specified in a uniform rate structure promulgated by state authorities, ranging from \$82.64 up to \$187 per day.

During 1999, the average cost of residential care was \$97.54 per day. A total of 18,189 child-care days was purchased for 130 juveniles. The mandated performance target for placements is 60% successful completion (defined as completion of the program according to discharge plans). Based on this criterion, the department achieved a success rate of 68% during 1999.

Commitment to the Texas Youth Commission

The Texas Youth Commission is the state agency charged with the responsibility for providing secure care and treatment for Texas youth who, by reason of unlawful behavior or need for secure facilities and resources, cannot remain in their home communities. Youths may be committed to Texas Youth Commission if they are found to have engaged in the commission of a delinquent act and if commitment is necessary to address the youth's rehabilitation needs and the protection of the community. Such youths are committed for an indeterminate amount of time, but no longer than the youth's 21st birthday. After the youth's 18th birthday, TYC officials may elect either to release the youth or continue to provide services.

Under certain circumstances, a judge or jury may impose a determinate sentence of "Violent or Habitual Offender" upon a youth. Such a youth would be placed in the custody of the Texas Youth Commission with a possible transfer to the Institutional or the Parole Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice at age 18. The terms of such sentences would be not greater than the following:

- 40 years for a capital felony or felony of the first degree, or aggravated controlled substance felony;
- 20 years for a felony of the second degree; or
- 10 years for a felony of the third degree.

Youth sentenced under this statute may receive probation from the judge or jury if the sentence is for ten years or less. If the probation is not transferred to the adult system by the juvenile court prior to the child's 18th birthday, the probation terminates automatically at age 18.

The average length of stay for TYC youth in an institutional facility in 1999 was 12.8 months, at a rate of \$89.66 per day per youth. During 1999, the Juvenile Court in Tarrant County committed 157 youth to TYC. The performance target mandated for Tarrant County was 265.